

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 /080 W
-----048895 210421Z /13

R 200904Z SEP 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8749
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC CP HNSMITH HAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2131

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ECON PBOR CH UR

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S TRIP TO NORTHEAST

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK VISITED SHENYANG, ANSHAN, CHANGCHUN, HARBIN AND TACHING DURING EIGHT DAY TRIP TO NORTHEAST SEPTEMBER 11-19. ITINERARY INCLUDED VISITS TO A NUMBER OF FACTORIES AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES OF EACH OF THE THREE PROVINCES. VISIBLE POLITICAL ACTIVITY WAS AT A MINIMUM IN HEILUNGKIANG AND KIRIN PROVINCES, BUT SOMEWHAT MORE EVIDENT IN LIAONING, WHERE FACTORY OFFICIALS ARE STILL FACED WITH RECOVERING FROM LOSSES IN PRODUCTION ASSCRIBED TO THE GANG OF FOUR. END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK, ACCOMPANIED BY USLO OFFICER, TRAVELED TO NORTHEAST CHINA SEPTEMBERR 11-19, SPENDING
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APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY EACH IN SHENYANG, ANSHAN, CHANGCHUN, HARBIN AND TACHING. THE ITINERARY INCLUDED VISITS TO THE SHENYANG HEAVY MACHINERY FACTORY, THE SHENYANG TRANSFORMER FACTORY, SEVERAL PLANTS IN THE ANSHAN IRON AND STEEL COMPLEX, THE CHANGCHUN MOTOR VEHICLE FACTORY, THE CHANGCHUN MOTION PICTURE STUDIO, THE HARBIN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY FACTORY, THE

TUNGCHIANG TRANSFORMER FACTORY IN HARBIN, AND THE TACHING OIL FIELDS. EFFORTS TO VISIT THE RECENTLY-COMPLETED KELLOG FERTILIZER FACTORY IN WOLITUN WERE UNSUCCESSFUL.

3. BRIEFINGS BY FACTORY LEADERS HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY RECENT CHANGES IN THE WAGE SYSTEM, BUT ONE OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT AN UPWARD REVISION OF THE LOWEST WAGE RATES WAS POSSIBLE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE OFFICIALS DESCRIBED SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN PRODUCTION DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE GANG OF FOUR. IN GENERAL, THE MOST SERIOUS PRODUCTION LOSSES SEEM TO HAVE OCCURRED IN LIAONING PROVINCE, WHERE THE ANSHAN STEEL COMPLEX SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT. IT IS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT SOME SLOW-DOWNS ASCRIBED TO THE GANG OF FOUR MAY IN FACT HAVE BEEN DUE TO ECONOMIC DISRUPTIONS CAUSED BY THE TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE IN JULY 1976. DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FACTORY VISITS WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

4. IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUESTS, AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK WAS GRANTED INTERVIEWS WITH PROVINCIAL LEADERS IN THE THREE PROVINCES OF THE NORTHEAST. IN LIAONING, HE MET JOINTLY WITH PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN HU I-MIN (5170/0076/3046) AND SHENYANG MUNICIPAL VICE CHAIRMAN
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SUNG KUANG (1345/0342), WHO SPOKE IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT THE NEED FOR ECONOMICRECOVERY. HU DODGED A QUESTION ABOUT MAO YUAN-HSIN BY STATING THAT EVERY PROVINCE HAD ITS OWN FOLLOWERS OF THE GANG, AND THAT ROOTING THEM OUT WOULD REQUIRE A LONG-TERM STRUGGLE. IN CHANGCHUN THE AMBASSADOR MET KIRIN PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN LAN KAN-TING (5695/1626/0080), WHO AFTER A VERY NERVOUS START GAVE A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE WITH EMPHASIS ON PAST FOREIGN AGGRESSION. LAN MADE A PITCH FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND IMPLIED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH TENG HSIAO-PING'S RECENT CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SECRETARY'S PEKING TALKS.

5. IN HARBIN, AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK WAS GIVEN A BANQUET BY HEILUNGKIANG PROVINCIAL VICE CHAIRMAN YANG I-CHEN (2799/2496/6591), AN OLD SOLDIER WHO HAD HELPED LIBERATE THE NORTHEAST IN THE 1940'S. YANG DWELLED ON THE DIFFICULTIES IN SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE DECLINE IN THE PROVINCE'S FISHING INDUSTRY DUE TO HEAVY CATCHES BY THE SOVIETS IN THE LOWER AMUR AND TO HARASSMENT OF CHINESE SALMON FISHERMEN BY SOVIET GUNBOATS IN THE USSURI. HE CLAIMED THAT HEI-HSIA-TZU

(OPPOSITE KHABAROVSK) IS THE ONLY DISPUTED ISLAND ACTUALLY OCCUPIED BY THE SOVIETS -- HE REFERRED TO A MILITARY CAMP AND A LUMBER MILL -- AND DECLARED THAT THE CHENPAO (DAMANSKY) ISLAND BATTLE HAD ENDED WITH THE CHINESE POSSESSION OF THE ISLAND. HE COMMENDED NEVILLE MAXWELL'S ARTICLE ON THIS LATTER SUBJECT, SAYING THAT "FOR A CAPITALIST WRITER" MAXWELL WAS FAIR AND OBJECTIVE.

6. WALLPOSTER ACTIVITY WAS VERY LIMITED IN BOTH HARBIN AND CHANGCHUN, WITH LITTLE BEYOND THE PERFUNCTORY SUPPORT FOR THE ELEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS. NO REAL POSTERS WERE SEEN INSIDE FACTORIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SERIES OF CARTOONS ATTACKING THE GANG OF FOUR
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IN THE HARBIN ELECTRICAL MACHINERY PLANT, REMINISCENT OF TEN MONTHS AGO. IN LIAONING, HOWEVER, WALLPOSTERS WERE MORE EVIDENT, PARTICULARLY IN ANSHAN, WHERE MANY QUITE RECENT POSTERS WERE SEEN ATTACKING RELATIVELY LOW RANKING OFFICIALS. WHILE THE MAJOR PROVINCIAL-LEVEL LEADERSHIP QUESTIONS IN LIAONING SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIMEBEING, THE PROCESS OF WEEDING OUT SECOND AND THIRD ECHELON SUPPORTERS IS STILL GOING ON. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED BY SEPTTEL.
WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, AMBASSADORS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PEKING02131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770342-0826
Format: TEL
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770944/aaaabkoi.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5940a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1207465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S TRIP TO NORTHEAST
TAGS: PINT, ECON, PBOR, CH, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5940a42-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009